

## Appendix A- Consistency with the Forest Plan

Subject to valid existing rights, all projects and activities authorized by the Forest Service must be consistent with the applicable forest plan components (16 USC 1604(i)) as described at 36 CFR 219.15 of the 2012 Planning Rule.

Elements of the IPNF Forest Plan are Goals, Desired Conditions, Objectives, Guidelines, and Standards. In addition to those that are applicable forestwide, the Forest Plan (p. 69) describes Desired Conditions, Guidelines and Standards for Management Area 4a (pages 64-67), Management Area 5 (page 69-71) and Management Area 6 (pages 71-72). The following table describe consistency with applicable Forest Plan elements, by resource.

**Table A-1: Forest Plan Consistency By Resource**

Resource	Applicable Element	Attainment
<b>Forest Vegetation</b>	<b>Goals, Desired Conditions, and Objectives</b> GOAL-VEG-01 FW-DC-VEG-01 FW-DC-VEG-02 FW-DC-VEG-03 FW-DC-VEG-04 FW-DC-VEG-05 FW-DC-VEG-06 FW-DC-VEG-11 MA5-DC-VEG-01 MA6-DC-VEG-01 MA6-DC-TBR-01 FW-OBJ-VEG-01	<b>Proposed Action:</b> The proposed action would help trend vegetation toward Forest Plan goals (GOAL-VEG-01). Treatments would trend the pattern of forest conditions within the project area toward the desired condition. There would be an increase in the representation of western larch and western white pine while reducing the grand fir/cedar/mountain hemlock mix dominance group (FW-DC-VEG-01, FW-OBJ-VEG-01), thereby increasing the amount of tree species that are less susceptible to root disease fungi, blister rust disease, and certain forest insects (FW-DC-VEG-06). Tree densities and the number of canopy layers within stands would generally be decreased (FW-DC-VEG-04) and more of the project area would be dominated by the seedling/sapling size class in diverse patch sizes (FW-DC-VEG-02, FW-DC-VEG-05). The proposed action would trend the warm/moist biophysical setting toward the desired condition (FW-DC-VEG-11). Within the warm/moist biophysical setting approximately 3,286 acres, where no treatments are proposed, could contribute to an increase in future patch size and amount of old growth. These acres are dominated by shade-tolerant conifers in the large size class (FW-DC-VEG-03). All proposed treatments occur on lands suitable for timber production (MA6-DC-TBR-01). No treatments are proposed in MA 4a or MA 5. Natural ecological processes and disturbances would be the primary forces affecting the composition, structure, and pattern of vegetation in MA5 (MA5-DC-VEG-01).
<b>Forest Vegetation</b>	<b>Standards</b> FW-STD-VEG-01 FW-STD-VEG-02 FW-STD-TBR-01 FW-STD-TBR-02 FW-STD-TBR-03 FW-STD-TBR-04 FW-STD-TBR-05 FW-STD-TBR-06 FW-STD-TBR-07 MA5-STD-TBR-01 MA5-STD-TBR-02 MA6-STD-TBR-01	<b>Proposed Action:</b> The proposed action would be consistent with all relevant vegetation and timber standards. No activities are proposed in old growth (FW-STD-VEG-01) or ancient cedar groves (FW-STD-VEG-02). All lands proposed for timber harvest are suitable timber lands (FW-STD-TBR-01). The potential for openings in excess of 40 acres was disclosed to the public during the initial project scoping period. Over 40-acre openings are discussed in detail in this EA and in the Forest Vegetation analysis. Regional Forester approval will be sought in order to follow through with the creation of the proposed large openings. The proposed action will comply with this standard following completion of public notification and pending approval from the Regional Forester (FW-STD-TBR-02).  Site-specific silvicultural prescriptions use locally-adapted methods proven to regenerate trees within five years. Regeneration harvests are not proposed on sites with potential regeneration success concerns (FW-STD-TBR-03). The stands proposed for regeneration harvests generally have not met CMAI. Inclusion of these stands is intended to increase the amount western white pine and western larch dominance types and increase the amount of the seedling/sapling size class while decreasing the grand fir/cedar/mountain hemlock dominance types. This would trend the project area towards the vegetation desired conditions (FW-STD-TBR-04).

*Homestead Project Environmental Assessment*

Resource	Applicable Element	Attainment
		<p>Proposed harvest systems were not chosen strictly on the basis of providing the greatest dollar return, rather they were primarily based upon trending forest vegetation toward desired Forest Plan conditions (FW-STD-TBR-05). Clearcutting with reserves followed by planting is proposed only where it is the optimum method for meeting Forest Plan direction (FW-STD-TBR-06) and would only be used where there is enough volume available to warrant harvesting and there is no other viable regeneration method. Clearcutting is proposed on sites dominated by the grand fir/cedar/mountain hemlock dominance group, desirable early seral, shade-intolerant, drought- and fire-tolerant, insect and disease resistant species (western larch and western white pine) are generally absent to retain as a component of residual stands. Even-aged prescriptions other than clearcutting are proposed, in stands that have a component of desirable early seral species, to increase the quantity of seedling/sapling size class and amount of western larch, western white pine dominance types within the project area (FW-STD-TBR-07), the combination of which will trend forested ecosystem within the project area toward the desired conditions listed in the Forest Plan.</p> <p>All acres of proposed harvest in MA6 would occur on suitable lands (MA6-STD-TBR-01). No proposed treatments that harvest timber are scheduled on unsuitable lands (MA6-STD-TBR-02).</p>
<b>Forest Vegetation</b>	<b>Guidelines</b> FW-GDL-VEG-01 FW-GDL-VEG-02 FW-GDL-VEG-03 FW-GDL-VEG-04 FW-GDL-VEG-05 FW-GDL-VEG-06 FW-GDL-VEG-07 FW-GDL-VEG-08 FW-GDL-TBR-01	<b>Proposed Action:</b> The proposed action would be consistent with all relevant vegetation guidelines. No activities are proposed in old growth stands (FW-GDL-VEG-01). No new permanent or temporary road construction is proposed in old growth (FW-GDL-VEG-02). Trees retained through retention associated with the harvest prescriptions would provide future recruitment of snags and coarse woody debris (FW-GDL-VEG-03, FW-GDL-VEG-04). Silviculture prescriptions would be consistent with silvicultural direction (FW-GDL-VEG-05, FW-GDL-VEG-06). Proposed activity areas have been surveyed for TES plants as necessary, and protection measures would be implemented to protect known locations of TES plants (FW-GDL-VEG-07). The proposed action utilizes silvicultural practices that would trend the forest vegetation towards conditions that are more resistant and resilient to disturbances and stressors, including climate change (FW-GDL-VEG-08).
<b>Timber Production and Socio-Economics</b>	<b>Goals, Desired Conditions, and Objectives</b> GOAL-TBR-01 GOAL-SES-01 FW-DC-TBR-01 FW-DC-SES-01 FW-DC-SES-02 FW-DC-SES-03 FW-OBJ-TBR-01	<b>Proposed Action:</b> The proposed action would result in the commercial sale of timber, making progress towards contributing to the social and economic well-being of local communities and providing a sustainable level of timber products for current and future generations, trending toward the Forest Plan goals (GOAL-TBR-01, GOAL-SES-01), applicable desired conditions (FW-DC-TBR-01, FW-DC-SES-01, FW-DC-SES-02, FW-DC-SES-03) and objectives (FW-OBJ-TBR-01) of the Forest Plan.
<b>Timber Production and Socio-Economics</b>	<b>Standards and Guidelines</b>	There are no standards or guidelines associated with timber production and socio-economics.
<b>Fire and Air Quality</b>	<b>Goals, Desired Conditions, and Objectives</b> FW-DC-FIRE-01 FW-DC-FIRE-02 FW-DC-FIRE-03 FW-OBJ-FIRE-01 FW-DC-AQ-01	<b>Proposed Action:</b> The proposed action would improve fire behavior characteristics on treated areas and therefore improve public and firefighter safety in the event of a wildfire in the project area (FW-DC-FIRE-01 and FW-DC-FIRE-02). Through timber harvest and subsequent treatment of activity fuels, hazardous fuels are reduced (FW-DC-FIRE-02). Planned ignitions would help trend vegetation toward the desired conditions while serving other important ecosystem functions (FW-DC-FIRE-03). The proposed action would make a contribution to the Forest Plan objective of treating fuels on approximately 6,000 to 16,000 acres annually on NFS

*Homestead Project Environmental Assessment*

Resource	Applicable Element	Attainment
		lands by treating over 1,400 acres of fuels over the course of the project (FW-OBJ-FIRE-01).  Reducing fuels available to a wildfire, as well as burning when conditions favor good smoke dispersion, will help the Forest meet desired conditions for air quality in Class 1 airsheds and non-attainment areas (FW-DC-AQ-01).
<b>Fire and Air Quality</b>	<b>Standards</b>	There are no Forest Plan Standards associated with fire or air quality.
<b>Fire and Air Quality</b>	<b>Guidelines</b> MA4a-GDL-FIRE-01 MA6-GDL-FIRE-01 FW-GDL-AQ-01	No prescribed fire is being proposed in the Theriault Lake RNA because it is not identified in the RNA Establishment Record (ER), or in an approved RNA management plan (MA4a-GDL-FIRE-01). The ER expressly states (p. 15); <i>"Fires will be confined, contained, and controlled to prevent fire loss of trees. Prescribed fire will not be used because this RNA is largely old growth of mountain hemlock which is highly subject to fire damage."</i>  <b>Proposed Action:</b> In accordance with Forest Plan guidelines for MA6, the proposed action would reduce fuels through timber harvest and burning (MA6-GDL-FIRE-01). Because the IPNF strictly complies with the recommendations provided by air quality regulating agencies when conducting prescribed burning activities, the project would be consistent with the air quality guideline (FW-GDL-AQ-01).
<b>Watershed, riparian, aquatic habitat and species</b>	<b>Goals, Desired Conditions, and Objectives</b> GOAL-WTR-01 GOAL-RIP-01 GOAL-AQH-01 GOAL-AQS-01 FW-DC-WTR-01 FW-DC-WTR-02 FW-DC-WTR-03 FW-DC-RIP-01 through FW-DC-RIP-05 FW-DC-AQH-05 FW-OBJ-WTR-01 FW-OBJ-WTR-02	<b>Proposed Action:</b> Proposed aquatic restoration activities would complement past restoration efforts and continue to improve watershed condition by reducing sedimentation and water temperature thus trending streams and riparian areas towards Forest Plan goals (GOAL-WTR-01, GOAL-RIP-01, GOAL-AQH-01, GOAL-AQS-01) and applicable desired conditions (FW-DC-WTR-01, FW-DC-WTR-02, FW-DC-WTR-03, FW-DC-RIP-01 through FW-DC-RIP-05, FW-DC-AQH-05).
<b>Watershed, riparian, aquatic habitat and species</b>	<b>Standards</b> FW-STD-WTR-01 FW-STD-RIP-01 FW-STD-RIP-02 FW-STD-RIP-03	<b>Proposed Action:</b> As a result of design features and BMPs in particular, the proposed action would be consistent with applicable standards for watershed, riparian and aquatic species. There are no designated special or public water supplies in the project area watersheds (FW-STD-WTR-01) however there is a domestic pond. Proposed road decommissioning and storage activities in the RHCAs would help promote these sites toward desired conditions. These may have short term effects due to increased turbidity and sediment delivery, but would show long-term benefits by removing road/stream connections and obliterating roads within the RHCAs (FW-STD-RIP-02). INFISH direction and terms and conditions in the Biological Opinion (USFWS, 1998) would be applied (FW-STD-RIP-03); see also the discussion of consistency with the Inland Native Fish Strategy.
<b>Watershed, riparian, aquatic habitat and species</b>	<b>Guidelines</b> FW-GDL-WTR-01 FW-GDL-WTR-02 FW-GDL-RIP-01 FW-GDL-RIP-05	<b>Proposed Action:</b> As a result of design features and BMPs, the Proposed Action would be consistent with applicable guidelines for watershed, riparian and aquatic species. Proposed activities would improve water quality in project area streams over the long term by decreasing sediment delivery, increase pool depth, and overstory shading, thereby decreasing water temperature (FW-GDL-WTR-01). Decommissioned and stored roads would be hydrologically inert after treatment due to design features and best management practices (FW-GDL-WTR-02). Routine road maintenance would follow applicable BMPs; soil and snow would not be side-cast into surface waters (FW-GDL-RIP-01). Proposed riparian units would be

*Homestead Project Environmental Assessment*

Resource	Applicable Element	Attainment
		harvested from the existing road system; if any additional entry points would be at locations designated by the sale administrator (FW-GDL-RIP-05).
<b>Soils</b>	<b>Goals, Desired Conditions, and Objectives</b>  GOAL-SOIL-01 FW-DC-SOIL-01 FW-DC-SOIL-02 FW-DC-SOIL-03 FW-OBJ-SOIL-01	<b>Proposed Action:</b> As a result of design features and BMPs in particular, the proposed action would be neutral toward the forestwide goal (GOAL-SOIL-01) and desired conditions (FW-DC-SOIL-01 through FW-DC-SOIL-03) for soils, and would not prevent the attainment of any applicable objectives (FW-OBJ-SOIL-01).
<b>Soils</b>	<b>Standards</b>	There are no standards associated with soils.
<b>Soils</b>	<b>Guidelines</b>  FW-GDL-SOIL-01 through FW-GDL-SOIL-04	<b>Proposed Action:</b> The project is designed to be consistent with forestwide guidelines for soils. By implementing the soil-related design features, the proposed action would meet the Region 1 Soil Quality Standards and therefore be consistent with all Forest Plan soil guidelines.
<b>Wildlife</b>	<b>Goals, Desired Conditions, and Objectives</b>  GOAL-WL-01 GOAL-WL-02 FW-DC-WL-10 through FW-DC-WL-14	<b>Proposed Action:</b> The proposed action would help trend conditions toward forestwide goals (GOAL-WL-01, GOAL-WL-02) and desired conditions. Management activities proposed in the riparian areas are designed for long-term benefit and would help promote these sites toward desired conditions (FW-DC-WL-11). No road construction or other activities are proposed within old growth (FW-DC-WL-12). Design of activities would help to avoid or minimize disturbance to species and their habitat (FW-DC-WL-13, FW-DC-WL-14). Activities would result in a trend toward the desired conditions for forest vegetation, thereby providing habitat for native fauna adapted to open forests and early seral habitats (or whose life/natural history and ecology are partially provided by those habitats), and wildlife habitat would be improved over the long-term (FW-DC-WL-10). Activities would not prevent attainment of Forest Plan objectives for wildlife.
<b>Wildlife</b>	<b>Standards</b>	There are no applicable standards associated with wildlife.
<b>Wildlife</b>	<b>Guidelines</b>  FW-GDL-WL-20 FW-GDL-WL-22	<b>Proposed Action:</b> Based on current conditions, unit location and layout, and application of design features such as buffers and timing of activities, the proposed action is designed in accordance with and would meet the intent of all applicable wildlife guidelines for raptors (FW-GDL-WL-20) and wolves (WL-GDL-WL-22).
<b>Access, recreation and scenic quality</b>	<b>Goals, Desired Conditions, and Objectives</b>  GOAL-AR-01 FW-DC-AR-02 FW-DC-AR-03 FW-DC-AR-04 FW-DC-AR-05 FW-DC-AR-07 FW-OBJ-AR-04 FW-OBJ-AR-05	<b>Proposed Action:</b> The Homestead project area would continue to provide year-round outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences in a range recreational activities and settings (FW-DC-AR-03, FW-DC-AR-04). Scenic resources would complement those settings and experiences while reflecting healthy and sustainable ecosystem conditions (FW-DC-AR-02). The transportation system would continue to provide safe and efficient public and administrative access to the Forest (FW-DC-AR-07). Motorized trail travel will continue to be provided. Non-motorized trail opportunities will continue to be provided in the upper St. Joe area with no change in the Homestead project area (FW-DC-AR-05). Winter and summer trail maintenance objectives will be met (FW-OBJ-AR-04, FW-OBJ-AR-05).
<b>Access, recreation and scenic quality</b>	<b>Standards</b>	There are no applicable standards associated with access or recreation.
<b>Access, recreation and scenic quality</b>	<b>Guidelines</b>  MA6-GDL-AR-04 MA6-GDL-AR-05	<b>Proposed Action:</b> The Homestead project would meet the Scenic Integrity Objectives of Moderate and High as set forth in the Forest Plan in the long term in MA 6. No activities are proposed within MA4.

Resource	Applicable Element	Attainment
<b>Cultural resources</b>	<b>Goals, Desired Conditions, and Objectives</b> FW-DC-CR-01 FW-OBJ-CR-01	<b>Proposed Action:</b> An appropriate inventory has been completed of proposed activity areas in the Homestead project area (FW-DC-CR-01, FW-OBJ-CR-01); Four new sites and nine previously known sites were recorded and updated during survey of the Homestead Project.
<b>Cultural resources</b>	<b>Standards</b>	There are no standards associated with cultural resources.
<b>Cultural resources</b>	<b>Guidelines</b> FW-GDL-CR-01	<b>Proposed Action:</b> The project would meet guidelines for cultural resources, because all contracts of work in relation to this project would include language for the protection of National Register-listed or eligible properties, either known or located through inadvertent discovery, and would include language protection and preservation protocols for any inadvertent discovery of human remains. Proposed activities would not impact treaty rights and/or cultural sites or cultural use.
<b>Sensitive Plants</b>	<b>Goals, Desired Conditions, and Objectives</b> FW-DC-VEG- 09	<b>Proposed Action:</b> Through adherence to forest plan guidelines for vegetation and soils, the proposed activities would move the project area toward desired conditions; this would contribute to retention or restoration of ecological conditions and processes that sustain the habitats currently or potentially supporting sensitive plant populations (FW-DC-VEG-09). Relevant forest plan direction includes maintaining and increasing old growth representation on the forest (FW-VEG-DC-03), i.e., via exclusion of old growth and recently logged stands and by selectively harvesting currently overrepresented tree species (FW-DC-VEG-11, FW-GDL-VEG-08); this would benefit various sensitive plant species associated with old growth/ mature stand conditions. Leaving down wood of various species, sizes, and stages of decay (FW-DC-VEG-08; FW-GDL-VEG-03; FW-GDL-SOILS-02) and maintaining soil integrity and hydrology and minimizing compaction (FW-DC-SOILS-01, -02, 03; FW-GDL-SOILS-01, -02, -03) would contribute to conditions associated with sensitive species reliant on underground fungal networks, which are supported by deep duff layers and rotting wood; sensitive mosses that occur on downed wood would also benefit.
<b>Sensitive Plants</b>	<b>Standards</b>	There are no standards associated with sensitive plants.
<b>Sensitive Plants</b>	<b>Guidelines</b> FW-GDL-VEG- 07	<b>Proposed Action:</b> An appropriate evaluation has been completed of proposed activity areas in the Homestead project area (FW-DC-VEG-09) for the presence of occupied or suitable habitat for plant species listed under the Endangered Species Act or on the Regional Forester's sensitive species list for Region 1. No threatened or endangered species or their habitat are present in the project area; no sensitive plant species are present in the project area.

Table A-2: Consistency with the Inland Native Fish Strategy

Applicable Plan Element	Attainment
Standard widths defining interim RHCAs	All categories of streams and other aquatic features in the project area have been protected accordingly, as part of the design features. Any features identified during implementation that were not identified would also be protected as appropriate.
Timber management	Vegetation management activities within the INFISH buffers are designed to meet desired conditions and have long term positive habitat trends.
Roads management	Road decommissioning and storage activities occurring within the INFISH buffers may have a short term effects due to increased turbidity and sediment delivery, but would show long term benefits by removing road/stream connections and obliterating roads within the INFISH buffers.
Fire/Fuels Management	There are no proposed prescribed burns located in the RHCAs, and site preparation outside of RHCAs would not prevent attainment of RMOs.

*Homestead Project Environmental Assessment*

Applicable Plan Element	Attainment
General Riparian Area Management	The riparian units would be harvested from the existing road system and if any additional entry points are needed, these would be at designated locations by the sale administrator.

